

Exhibition "The ILO's fight against child labour: Dreaming of Freedom"

“My close association with IPEC spans the full 20 years of its existence. Back in the early 1990s, as a member and rapporteur of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, I witnessed IPEC's beginnings and rapid transformation into a sound repository of knowledge and practical experience on the prevention and elimination of child labour. Today, I am fortunate to find in IPEC a decisive supporter and experienced partner in my work as a global advocate for the elimination of all forms of violence against children.



The United Nations Study on Violence against Children noted that "of all the settings where children are exposed to violence, the workplace is among the most difficult to address." Joining hands with IPEC, this is a challenge we remain committed to overcome. Over the years, IPEC has done invaluable work to increase our understanding of child labour and of how violence is a serious dimension of the difficulties faced daily by child labourers and young workers. Helping to expose the magnitude of these phenomena and enhancing evidence and advocacy work on crucial areas of concern, such as the situation of domestic child workers, and the particular risks faced by girls and of children trapped in the worst forms of child labour, IPEC continues to be an essential reference for my mandate.

I look forward to many more years of fruitful cooperation. ”

*Marta Santos Pais,
Special Representative of the United Nations
Secretary-General on Violence Against Children*